



Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

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Snowbird Tips

If you are heading south this winter to escape the cold, contact the Utility Billing Department at 952-442-3107 and we will notate your account to expect zero use during these months. Don't forget to consider these additional tips before you go:

Keep your home and plumbing warm

If you keep your water on, the best defense against freezing pipes is to keep the furnace running. Set the heat at 55 degrees or higher to ensure the interior of the wall cavities, where the water piping is located, does not drop below freezing. Keeping room and cabinet doors open also helps heat to circulate and warm the outside walls. If you decide to shut off the heat, consider turning off your water supply completely. Drain your pipes of all water by opening the faucets and don't forget to flush your toilet to clear the water from the bowl. To help ensure that the pipes have been drained, consider having a plumber blow compressed air through the pipes. Please note, to turn water off at the curb, the City charges \$25. There is an additional \$25 cost to turn water back on.



Be ready for emergencies

Ask a trusted friend, neighbor or relative to keep an eye on your home and be available in emergency situations. Have them regularly check your home for heating, electrical or water issues. If the weather turns frigid, have them also check the roof for ice dams, and inspect for leaks inside. Make sure they have your contact information and a list with numbers of local people they can reach if repairs or service are needed.

Your home should look like someone is still living in it

Forward your mail and stop newspaper delivery. Ask a neighbor, friend or relative to collect flyers or other items that may be left at your door. Arrange to have someone remove snow that may accumulate on the driveway and walkways. Please note that City ordinance requires sidewalk snow removal within 24 hours after a snow event.

Social Host Ordinance

The City of Waconia recently implemented a social host ordinance. A social host ordinance is an ordinance that adds restrictions and regulations to the sale and possession of alcoholic beverages. Waconia's ordinance specifically makes it unlawful for any person to knowingly host an event where alcohol is present and underage persons are consuming it.

Although state law sets the drinking age at 21 and makes it a crime to provide alcohol to minors, it does not prohibit adults from giving kids a place to drink in their homes. This gap in the law was the basis of the need for the social host ordinance.

Waconia's social host ordinance does not change rules allowing parents to serve their underage children alcohol in their home. It also does not cover legally protected religious observances, or situations of employment. The ordinance is now in effect, and the penalty for violation is a misdemeanor.

